[19th November 1930

Visits of non-official visitors to jails.

*19 Q.—Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti: Will the hon the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of visits made by the non-official visitors to each of the District and Central Jails from March to October 1930;

(b) the recommendations made or impressions recorded by them; and

(c) the action taken by the Government in respect of such recommendations?

A.—(a) & (b) The Government have no information.

(c) The attention of the hon. Member is invited to rules 27 and 28 of the Madras Jail Manual. The Government are addressed only when the Jail authorities are not competent to take action on any particular recommendation.

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"Is it a fact that visitors to jails should wear a particular dress?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"There is no such rule."

Mr. A. Ranganatha Mudaliyar:—"For example, about Gandhi caps, are non-official visitors to jails allowed to wear Gandhi caps?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"It is left to the visitors to wear whatever dress they please."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know whether the Government have asked non-official visitors to persuade political prisoners to apologise?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"No; discretion is left to the non-official visitors to jails to give such advice as is permitted by the Jail Manual."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know if they have been doing so?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"Government are not aware of the advice given by them."

Mr. Sami Venkatachalam Chetti:—"May I know whether non-official visitors have been instructed orally or in writing to persuade some of the prisoners to apologise and save the country from discredit?"

The hon. Diwan Bahadur Sir M. Krishnan Nayar:—"No, Sir."

The number of persons convicted for political offences.

*20 Q.—Mr. Basheer Ahmed Sayeed: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(a) the number of prisoners convicted of political offences up to date and the number now in the various jails of the Presidency;

(b) how many of them were placed in each of the classes A, B and C;

(c) how many of the said political prisoners are females and how many males;

(d) what was the offence for which the females were convicted and in which jails these female prisoners are placed;